



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
MOSCOW

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

August 5, 2019

Dear Mr. President,

American citizenship is a privilege and I believe the most basic responsibility in return is service to country. To that end, I am honored by the trust you have placed in me as United States Ambassador to Russia during this historically difficult period in bilateral relations.

Mary Kaye and I have given this sensitive assignment our very best. During our time abroad, we have experienced family deaths, births and military deployments, not unlike many families serving our nation abroad. During my tenure, I have had the high honor of leading hundreds of talented, patriotic public servants who are themselves laboring under extremely difficult circumstances to promote and protect America's interests. They have endured unprecedented expulsions, forced departures, and enormous professional disruptions. Though largely anonymous, your team in Mission Russia is first-rate and every American would be proud of their work. Their efforts away from loved ones, in one of the world's most forbidding environments, are nothing short of inspiring. They deserve our endless gratitude.

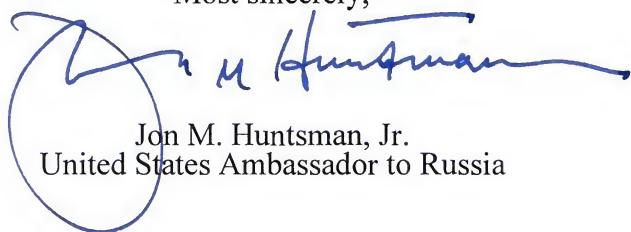
Going forward, we must continue to hold Russia accountable when its behavior threatens us and our allies. While much of what divides us is irreconcilable, there are common interests we cannot ignore. No reset or restart is going to help, just a clear understanding of our interests and values -- and a practical framework for sustained dialogue. Through our diplomacy, we have worked to stabilize years of acrimony and incertitude with the hope of a better relationship. Failure is not an option, and the people on both sides deserve better. While times are tough, it is critical that we increase exchanges of people and maintain channels for dialogue on issues of national interest -- combatting terrorism, ensuring verifiable arms control, insisting that Russia respect the sovereignty of its neighbors, and advocating for a more responsive system of governance that includes rule of law and respect for human rights.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

It has been a singular honor along with so many others at Mission Russia who have given their all in serving our country at Embassy Moscow and our Consulates in Vladivostok and Yekaterinburg. Yet, as I have shared with you and Secretary Pompeo, our desire is to return to the United States after two years to reconnect with our growing family and responsibilities at home.

Therefore, I humbly resign my office as United States Ambassador to Russia, effective October 3, 2019. It is my hope that this will allow sufficient time for a successor to be nominated and confirmed. I pledge my full effort in facilitating a smooth transition that ensures our foreign policy goals are kept in proper focus.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon M. Huntsman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, open loop on the left side.

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.  
United States Ambassador to Russia